

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	PDI-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC1-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00
	NSAE-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	BBG-00	R-00
	ECA-00	IIP-00	DRL-00	G-00	CARC-00	SAS-00	/001W

-----1F387F 111207Z /38

R 111204Z SEP 06

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5155

INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

FRG COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USOSCE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//J5 DIRECTORATE (MC) //

CDRUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

UDITDUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

UNCLAS BERLIN 002647

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/PAPD, EUR/PPA, EUR/AGS, INR/EUC, INR/P,
SECDEF FOR USDP/ISA/DSAA, DIA FOR DC-4A

VIENNA FOR CSBM, CSCE, PAA

"PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: 9/11 GWOT IRAN MIDEAST GERMANY-U.S.;BERLIN

- A. Lead Stories Summary
- B. (9/11) Fifth Anniversary
- C. (GWOT) Presidential Speech On Detainee Policy
- D. (Iran) Nuclear Program
- E. (Mideast) Olmert-Abbas Talks
- F. (U.S.-Germany) Merkel On Guantnamo

- A. Lead Stories Summary

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADLINES

The Pope Criticizes "Partial Deafness Towards God" (Frankfurter Allgemeine)

Pope Says Firm Belief In Church Lacking (Sueddeutsche Zeitung)

Pope Complains About Decline In Values (Die Welt)

Pope Criticizes Godlessness Of the West (Frankfurter Rundschau)

Neo-Nazis In Berlin Beat Up People In Election Campaign (Tagesspiegel)

Five Years After 9/11 - The World Commemorates Events (Berliner Zeitung)

Editorials focused on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and on Pope Benedict XVI visit to Germany. ZDF-TV's early evening newscast heute and ARD-TV's early evening newscast Tagesschau opened with stories on the papal visit to Germany.

B. (9/11) Fifth Anniversary

1. "Five Years Later"

Günter Nonnenmacher had this to say in a front-page editorial in center-right Frankfurter Allgemeine (9/11):

"In view of three and a half years in Iraq and the closely linked spread of anti-Western emotions in the Islamic world that have also increased the terrorist threatening potential, Bush allegation is absurd that Saddam's ouster has made the world safer.... Despite the inner-Islamic front, which has broken out primarily in Iraq, the war on terror has characteristics of the 'clash of cultures' that Samuel Huntington predicted five years before the attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon.... It is questionable whether the term 'war' is the right description for the fight against terrorism.... Even though in Afghanistan and in Iraq the regime change based on a belligerent confrontation succeeded, the terrorist swamp has not dried up....

"Very early, terrorist structures formed that are not centrally controlled, but are formed by local, independent groups. Such terror cells that are no longer 'linked to each other' and that follow the same ideological impetus, must be fought with methods used against organized crime.... It is a painful realization for Western societies that the democratic rule of law then finds its limits. In addition, improved cooperation across borders is

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

necessary with regimes whose internal order deters us....

"In order to fight terrorism, the entire arsenal of police, intelligence, and military means will be necessary. The (semi-free) presidential elections in Iran and the (free) parliamentary elections in the Palestinian territories revealed that the 'democratization of the Middle East,' which the U.S. neoconservatives called for, is no panacea but can even create new problems. Terror can be defeated only if Islamic societies make peace with modern times and once the political trenches with the West have been leveled off. This is - to put it optimistically - a path with many obstacles, a program with long-term intervals."

2. "Deed And Reaction"

Stefan Kornelius judged in an editorial in center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (9/11):

"The outcome of this drama [9/11] for mankind will depend on whether a moment of reflection will be possible, or even a turning point, a change of strategies. All the terms that were used to describe 9/11, all the dead, the words, and cultural distortions obscure the view to the inner mechanics of the new conflict, to the simplest calculation on which terror is based. The post-9/11 conflict feeds on the basic principle of terror: it is not the deed itself that causes the destruction but the reaction to the crime. This causes changes, revolutions, and leads to revolts. Islamic terror began in the United States and will find an end only through the United States. America and the Bush administration were a compliant executioner in their reaction to the crime.... It was the idea, the intellectual achievement that has driven America and the Western world to the defensive and creates a mounting feeling of 'unfreedom' and instability....

"Terrorists plant fear and vivid imaginations into the minds of people. That is why the fight against terrorists is mainly a fight for ideas, for minds, for moral superiority. Therefore, the 'war on terror' that Bush declared and has not ended by today was the strategically worst mistake and a rhetorical stupidity to top it all. This war cannot be waged, let alone be won, but it requires everyone to take sides; it polarizes, promotes enemy images on both sides. It abruptly ended America's imperial moment and carried the terrorist seed to the real battlefields where it brilliantly developed. Because of this, America...lost its moral superiority and castrated its political influence.

"It has been bin Laden's greatest achievement that the Bush administration has not yet recognized and revised this self-destructing mechanism.... In the crucial question, the Bush administration has failed. It has lost the hearts and minds of the

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

people. It is being recognized, even though it was a victim, as a perpetrator who bends and ignores the law, orchestrated a war, and lied because it gave up what needed to be defended. Bush will be unable to correct this. The change of mentality will be a task for the next president. If he succeeded, he would achieve a historic achievement."

3. "Because We Are Worth It"

Malte Lehming noted in centrist Der Tagesspiegel of Berlin (9/11) noted:

"In the end, the division of the West caused by the Iraq War, must be overcome. Not because 'we fight them' but because the terrorists will only have a chance if we confirm their feelings that they are able to unhinge our system of values. The United States and Europe are united by more than just the common threat. They should clearly say that they are willing to enter into a dialogue with Islam. But there is something that is not negotiable: democracy, freedom of opinion and religion, equal opportunities for women, Israel's security, to name but a few examples. Yes, Osama bin Laden is alive, his ideology continues to find supporters, serious mistakes were made in the anti-terror fight. But those who resign because of this are giving themselves up and denying reality."

4. Center-right General-Anzeiger of Bonn (9/11) noticed:

"A certain emotional distance is noticeable five years later. But this distance is not yet very great. It is impossible to say how this process continues in the United States. But we can speculate that a really turning point in the discussion over the 9/11 attacks can begin only once President Bush's term is over. A long time ago, the Bush era and 9/11, the horror of attacks and the turbulence of a

radical policy, have become forcefully fused. With Bush, the Americans remain caught in the memory of the shock. Only after him will an end of the traumatization be possible."

5. "Corrections"

Matthias Koch argued in a front-page editorial in centrist Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung (9/11):

"In the Iraq war, the Americans made their decisive mistake. The international community should have coordinated its actions and should have tried to win the conflict with Saddam without a war. Instead the United States struck without a UN mandate and, in addition, violated human rights several times by setting up secret CIA prisons and through disgusting excesses in their treatment of prisoners. Never before has the nation that considers itself the

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

lighthouse of law and freedom, showed itself up to such a degree as it did under Bush. His basic mistake was to think that he was able to invalidate the law in the fight against the lawless. In the meantime, corrections have been made on both sides.... But not only these corrections give reason for hope. It could be that the basic error of the terrorists will surface, too. It was obviously a mistake to assume that Western societies would collapse under the threat of terror.... It does not seem to be that a caliphate state will soon be proclaimed in regions where democracies are governing. Rather the opposite is the case."

6. Centrist Stuttgarter Zeitung (9/11) argued:

"It is possible that we may not defeat the terrorists, but we could cut out the ground from under their feet. But then Russia should, for example, grant the Chechens greater freedoms, too. Iraq should be rebuilt, America and Europe must resolutely take great efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, for the conflict between Israel and its neighbors forms the core conflict with the Arab-Islamic world. Over the past few years, America and Israel have forgotten an old Jewish wisdom: 'He is a hero who makes his enemy a friend.'"

7. Right-of-center N|rnberger Zeitung (9/11) noted:

"If the U.S. president wants to win the self-proclaimed 'war on terror,' he must first of all prove that he has confidence in the values he pretends to defend: the rule of law and the freedom of Western democracies. But those who create CIA prisons in 'friendly' states because there are no restrictions for torture in those countries and who transfer prisoners to the illegal Guantanamo prison camp to have them vegetate in containers prove the opposite. With such moves it is not possible to persuade potential supporters of the Al Qaida leader of the superiority of Western values."

C. (GWOT) Presidential Speech On Detainee Policy

1. Hans-Joachim Wiese commented on national radio station Deutschlandfunk of Cologne (9/10):

"The policy of the U.S. administration violates international laws. It contradicts fundamental democratic principles to detain suspects for years without charging them and allowing them legal assistance, like in Guantanamo. The German government must be asked why it is bold enough only now, and far too late, to criticize the policy of the Bush administration.... It must call on Washington to close down the prison camp in Guantanamo. It cannot be satisfied with Bush's announcement that the last 14 terror suspects have now been taken from covert CIA prisons to Guantanamo - these suspects are not

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

yet guaranteed any legal proceedings."

2. "Europe's Dark Side"

Nicolas Richter remarked in center-left S|ddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (9/9):

"The Europeans claimed they had never heard about the secret CIA prisons. Instead, many state leaders warned the Americans insistently to show respect for the Geneva Convention even in times of greatest danger. George W. Bush has now made half a step in this direction by ordering to take top detainees from their obscure dungeons to the infamous camp in Guantanamo. However, the CIA prisons are not just an American problem, but probably also a European one. In contrast to Bush, who has never concealed his aggressive policy on terror suspects, European politicians pretended moral outrage while they knew about, benefited from, and even supported the U.S. policy.... Europe might come to the conclusion that everybody overstepped a few limits in the fight against terrorism. European governments will finally have to face these contradictions because the Washington's next revelation will certainly come. Europe must shed light on its dark corners."

3. "Aggressive Retreat"

Christoph von Marschall noted in centrist Der Tagesspiegel of Berlin (9/9):

"Politicians swindle to remain in office. You have to give news the right spin, strategists say. The White House is a master of this perfidious art of mixing up show and facts. The world's commentators and people are now undecided over whether President Bush's policy on detained terrorists is new. Has he admitted anything and given in to criticism? Or is he showing the people what he is made of? The U.S. president demanded from Congress the implementation of military tribunals, which the Supreme Court has recently prohibited. Indeed, the president had to make concessions, but he hides them behind aggressive rhetoric. Torture is now officially banned, also in CIA interrogations. The Geneva Convention also applies to detained terror suspects. In the military tribunals, they will have more rights than Bush wanted to give them. Courts, critical congressmen, and worried European allies have forced him to make these changes. Those who were in despair over the superpower might find hope again. The checks and balances of the democracy are showing effect. But these corrections are not going far enough. No critic should therefore talk about a victory over Bush's wrong policy. A beginning has been made. Many are now pinning their hopes on the Congressional elections this autumn."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

D. (Iran) Nuclear Program

1. "A Matter For Iran"

Jasper von Altenbockum had this to say in an editorial in center-right Frankfurter Allgemeine (9/11):

"In the nuclear conflict with Iran, the issue is no longer the art of the possible but to find a way out of the hopelessness. Javier Solana and Ali Larijani are currently demonstrating what this feat can look like. Both sides are prolonging a limbo in which the West can pretend that it would be able to prevent Iran from building the bomb, and Iran pretend that it would, even though reluctantly, accept...this. This would mean...that Iran would have time to suspend uranium enrichment as long as it is willing to enter into 'serious' talks. This is how French Foreign Minister Douste-Blazy put it. But what would this present mean for Tehran? Europeans and Americans could prevent Iran from driving a wedge between them and Russia and China, or the EU. With such an approach, the nuclear conflict would for them turn on the means rather than on the end, on the path, and not so much the matter itself. Iran's envoy Larijani does not have such difficulties. He can say this, while Tehran can say that, for they are interested in the matter itself."

E. (Mideast) Olmert-Abbas Talks

1. "New Climate"

Inge G|nther commented in left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau (9/11):

"The current climate promotes new initiatives, including first ideas for a peace conference like the one from Madrid 1991. That's where the common interests of the West and the moderate Arab world could be discussed, also to counter the mullah regime in Iran that is striving for regional hegemony. Even if these expectations are not realistic, the Palestinians now have the opportunity to find a way out of the dead end of Islamists. But Hamas must realize the offer of the moment and agree on Abbas's suggestion of a unity government."

2. "Abbas Must Be Strengthened"

Thorsten Schmitz opined in center-left S|ddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (9/11):

"The only way out of the disastrous situation seems to be to disempower the Hamas government, which must be done in a way that Hamas can save its face. A coalition government between Hamas and

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Fatah could serve both sides. Hamas would formally stay in government, but leave the business to the experienced and internationally accepted Fatah. At the same time, Abbas must be strengthened. Israeli government leader Olmert's invitation to the Palestinians to meet without preconditions is a first step in the right direction. Abbas must be strengthened to throw Hamas on the scrap heap. If Olmert now released prisoners, the kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit could get his freedom back."

F. (U.S.-Germany) Merkel On Guantnamo

1. Left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau (9/11) opined:

"The chancellor and her interior minister spoke well. By using different words but by relying on an appropriate clarity, Chancellor Merkel and Interior Minister Schduble have certified a sad fact to the U.S. president. George Bush has led the allegedly largest democracy in the world across the borders of the rule of law into a zone of arbitrariness. Especially in transatlantic relations it is not always self-evident to openly tell the truth. But this time, with respect to secret CIA prisons, it is all the more laudable."

2. "Credible"

Heinz-Joachim Melder observed in an editorial in centrist Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung (9/11):

"She waited for a few days, but now, Chancellor Merkel has clearly criticized President Bush and the secret CIA prisons. It corresponds to her style to exchange opinions in a rather non-committal form but this restraint stops when human rights and the rule of law are involved.... Thus far, Merkel has received only praise for this view, including from Bush, with whom she has spoken on several occasions about closing the Guantnamo prison camp. The insinuation is wrong to say that she is acting only for tactical reasons to defuse charges that the German government is now seeking an undifferentiated closeness with Washington after a period of alienation. But a relaxed friendship can intensify the effects of criticism."

TIMKEN

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED